

North Carolina Department of Transportation
I-440 Interchange Improvements at Glenwood Avenue Project

Facilitated Listening Session

Tuesday, September 25, 2018
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Martin Middle School
1701 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Room 2137 Session

Transcription by:
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1 SPEAKER: All right. This is Patty
2 Patrick and Rebecca Toeser. This is September 25th
3 and we're facilitating the meeting for the DOT
4 facilitators. All right.

5 The first question that we have -- oh,
6 it's on the other side. With one word, Rebecca's
7 going to capture on here, with one word what do you
8 feel best describes the most important thing to
9 you, or your household, or business that must be
10 considered for this project? One word. This is
11 just to get us started.

12 SPEAKER: Traffic.

13 SPEAKER: Traffic.

14 SPEAKER: Safety.

15 SPEAKER: Safety.

16 SPEAKER: I was going to say traffic
17 transportation, yeah.

18 SPEAKER: Traffic? We'll use hashtags,
19 so that way that's two for that -- for both of
20 those. Yeah.

21 SPEAKER: Access.

22 SPEAKER: Access. Is there anything?

23 SPEAKER: Pedestrians.

24 SPEAKER: Okay. For question one, we
25 have traffic, safety, access, and pedestrians.

1 All right.

2 Question two. What do you believe is
3 needed to ensure the safety of your family, the
4 people who live in your area and the people who
5 travel through your area? So that's kind of a
6 three-part question. What do you believe is needed
7 to ensure the safety of your family, the people who
8 live in your area and the people that travel
9 through your area?

10 SPEAKER: One word?

11 SPEAKER: No. More.

12 SPEAKER: Now, you can express anything
13 that you want to -- it's a game. We were just --
14 we were warming up our vocal cords together as a
15 group.

16 SPEAKER: Whatever, you'd like to say.

17 SPEAKER: Vehicular speed on Ridge Road.

18 SPEAKER: So what specifically, if we
19 want to be as specific as possible? What
20 specifically about the speed?

21 SPEAKER: Limiting vehicular speed on
22 Ridge Road.

23 SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER: I would say the volume -- the
25 volume of traffic coming through the neighborhood

1 on -- on Ridge Road.

2 SPEAKER: On Ridge Road?

3 SPEAKER: Right.

4 SPEAKER: The volume of traffic on Ridge
5 Road.

6 SPEAKER: Is this a -- and I may be
7 getting a little nit-picky here, but is this a
8 question about safety? Safety of the family,
9 safety of the people who live in the area and
10 safety of the people who travel to the area?

11 SPEAKER: Yes. Yes.

12 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

13 SPEAKER: Okay. All right.

14 SPEAKER: This is --

15 SPEAKER: Just safety questions? Okay.
16 Got it.

17 SPEAKER: Yes. Now, you should be -- be
18 particular.

19 SPEAKER: Okay.

20 SPEAKER: And when you said the volume of
21 traffic on Ridge Road, you also mean -- you said
22 something about the neighborhoods alongside? Are
23 you talking about the -- the volume of traffic on
24 the side roads as well or just Ridge?
25 Neighborhoods, everything?

1 SPEAKER: It's roads that -- that could
2 be impacted with additional traffic as a result of
3 the construction.

4 SPEAKER: Okay. During construction and
5 then after construction?

6 SPEAKER: Exactly.

7 SPEAKER: Both?

8 SPEAKER: Both.

9 SPEAKER: Okay. Okay.

10 SPEAKER: I was --

11 SPEAKER: Add those on that -- I'm not
12 concerned about during construction, but after the
13 project, specifically Glen Eden Road, which is
14 already a cut-through from Glenwood Avenue to Blue
15 Ridge so --

16 SPEAKER: And what road was that again?

17 SPEAKER: Glen Eden.

18 SPEAKER: Glen Eden.

19 SPEAKER: Okay.

20 SPEAKER: What about at Lake Boone?

21 SPEAKER: And Lake Boone would be the
22 same concern?

23 SPEAKER: It's a similar, like, access to
24 440. [Inaudible].

25 SPEAKER: So people are using it as a

1 secondary road when the traffic is bad?

2 SPEAKER: Uh-huh. Right.

3 SPEAKER: Okay.

4 SPEAKER: That's like with the -- the
5 image that they have here like, Ridge Road is not
6 like the road up to there, but it's how far that
7 study area goes down Ridge because it seems like
8 they're more concerned with Edwards Mill and
9 Creedmoor and further down Glenwood.

10 SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

11 SPEAKER: Yeah, that gives them more
12 specific --

13 SPEAKER: This is more specific.

14 SPEAKER: Right.

15 SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

16 SPEAKER: So there's Glen Eden and they
17 have the study area in here. So here's the road
18 she's concerned about.

19 SPEAKER: Okay.

20 SPEAKER: And Lake Boone is further down
21 Ridge.

22 SPEAKER: Right.

23 SPEAKER: So it's not actually in the
24 study area, but it's going to be impacted because
25 of the study area.

1 SPEAKER: Like, the study area only
2 really includes like the ramp that goes on the 440,
3 it looks like.

4 SPEAKER: Okay. So we want to
5 specifically say beyond the study area.

6 SPEAKER: Right.

7 SPEAKER: Yep.

8 SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

9 SPEAKER: Are there any other concerns
10 that have not been communicated?

11 SPEAKER: Safety concerns.

12 SPEAKER: Yep. Safety concerns. Let me
13 just repeat one more time. For your family, for
14 the people who live in the area and then anyone
15 whose traveling through the area, did we capture --

16 SPEAKER: I would just like to be sure
17 that what gets put in is not too convoluted. It's
18 easy to, you know, drive and interchange streets.
19 Like, you know, it's something new and I'm not like
20 where do I need to go. It's easy enough to
21 navigate.

22 SPEAKER: Navigate?

23 SPEAKER: The -- the simplicity -- you
24 want simplicity in the plan?

25 SPEAKER: Yeah.

1 SPEAKER: Okay.

2 SPEAKER: You know, I don't want to get
3 in a wreck because I'm confused, for instance.

4 SPEAKER: Reduce confusion -- traffic
5 confusion.

6 SPEAKER: And another comment that builds
7 on that is maintaining emergency vehicle access to
8 this neighborhood. Some conversations that other
9 meetings have talked about, you know, if Ridge Road
10 is terminated at the northern end, that will --
11 could potentially increase response time for fire,
12 ambulance, EMT, so just --

13 SPEAKER: Any -- any emergency vehicles
14 --

15 SPEAKER: -- any access time or response
16 time is not negatively impacted for the
17 neighborhood.

18 SPEAKER: And what particular area were
19 you mentioning?

20 SPEAKER: I'm talking about the -- in the
21 community impact.

22 SPEAKER: Okay.

23 SPEAKER: In the community impact.

24 SPEAKER: So along Ridge Road where
25 emergency vehicles would use Ridge Road.

1 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

2 SPEAKER: Okay.

3 SPEAKER: The other thing that's not
4 related, but that -- something else that I think is
5 needed to ensure my family safety and my neighbor's
6 safety is that they are no impacts to the schools
7 and to the pre-schools along Ridge Road. So there
8 are two public schools and I believe there are four
9 pre-schools --

10 SPEAKER: Okay.

11 SPEAKER: Okay.

12 SPEAKER: -- located on Ridge Road in
13 the community impact.

14 SPEAKER: Okay. And that's a different
15 -- that's a separate section.

16 SPEAKER: Yeah. But I'm going to note
17 that.

18 SPEAKER: Yep. Community impact. Do you
19 feel like, for question two, we've captured the
20 safety issues? Are there any additional safety
21 issues?

22 SPEAKER: Well, do -- I don't know if we
23 want to get into -- in different types of
24 individuals that could be impacted because Ridge
25 Road has bike lanes on both -- on both sides, so --

1 and a lot of people are cycling and a lot of people
2 are now using these bird scooters --

3 SPEAKER: Yep.

4 SPEAKER: -- up and down the roads, so
5 Ridge Road is unique in that it has bike lanes on
6 both sides.

7 SPEAKER: Different types of traffic?

8 SPEAKER: Exactly.

9 SPEAKER: Okay. The diversity of -- of
10 traffic. So pedestrians, scooters?

11 SPEAKER: Cyclists.

12 SPEAKER: Cyclists.

13 SPEAKER: It's also a conduit for the
14 greenway. So the House Creek Greenway that -- that
15 goes, you know, you can access it as the base of
16 Ridge Road at 440. You can also access it at Glen
17 Eden.

18 SPEAKER: Glen Eden.

19 SPEAKER: Close to Ridge Road. They're a
20 lot of pedestrians and cyclists who travel Ridge
21 Road to get to the greenway, and there's, you know,
22 just much more pedestrian foot and bike traffic
23 than I think there are on other roads in the area.

24 SPEAKER: Okay. Yep. Do you feel good
25 about that one? Okay. We will have an opportunity

1 to come back if you guys think of something as
2 other questions come up.

3 Three. Is there a specific valuable
4 community asset, something important to the
5 community or the neighborhood located within the
6 project zone that you are concerned will be
7 impacted? If so, what is it and how do you believe
8 it will be impacted?

9 So now we're talking specifically -- it
10 -- this is a confusing question a little bit
11 because community, what is the community to you,
12 but we are talking about the project area. So this
13 is the project area.

14 SPEAKER: You're talking about the
15 physical asset?

16 SPEAKER: Is there an asset? And
17 whatever you decide is the asset is the asset,
18 whether it's physical or something else so --

19 SPEAKER: Yeah, I would say bike lines.

20 SPEAKER: Okay. Bike lines.

21 SPEAKER: I would say just overall
22 pedestrian flow whether it's school kids or dog
23 walkers or joggers or all -- all the above is a
24 huge asset that -- that's -- that's affected to be
25 a problem.

1 SPEAKER: Okay. Foot traffic, in
2 general, is what I'm hearing there. Just the foot
3 traffic that's --

4 SPEAKER: Huge.

5 SPEAKER: Yeah. School, like schools and
6 churches.

7 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

8 SPEAKER: Okay.

9 SPEAKER: I would say House Creek as a --

10 SPEAKER: House Creek as a [inaudible]?

11 SPEAKER: It's not. It's a -- it's a
12 stream.

13 SPEAKER: Okay.

14 SPEAKER: It's part of Crabtree Creek,
15 but also list Crabtree Creek. So both of those
16 being, you know, they absorb stormwater.

17 SPEAKER: Okay. In -- environmental
18 impact?

19 SPEAKER: Yeah. They can provide
20 ecosystems services there, water quality. Their
21 features that are part of the greenway, in fact,
22 that they attract people to that. They provide,
23 you know, a place to, you know, be active, reduce
24 stress. You know, there are a lot of quality -- a
25 lot of services that they provide, environmental

1 physical, emotional maybe even. The road
2 construction and housing and commercial
3 construction in Wade County does not really do
4 [inaudible] for water quality. There's so much
5 runoff, it's really hard to navigate the reporting
6 process. Neighbors see, you know, just sheets of
7 mud flowing off a property. They don't know who to
8 call. They have trouble just navigating that
9 complaint process or knowing which statutes maybe
10 are being violated. I think that we're at a
11 disadvantage when it comes to that as concerned
12 citizens. So I just --

13 SPEAKER: Not knowing like where to
14 advocate or who to advocate, like --

15 SPEAKER: Yeah.

16 SPEAKER: The process.

17 SPEAKER: It's just a -- it's [inaudible]
18 --

19 SPEAKER: The recording process and
20 getting information.

21 SPEAKER: You see a lot of it on Facebook
22 or Next Door or Twitter, but I don't know that it's
23 ever actually getting to a place where it's
24 effective, so I think it's just --

25 SPEAKER: It's like the accountability

1 for the construction services?

2 SPEAKER: Yeah.

3 SPEAKER: Yeah. That --

4 SPEAKER: So can I -- is it fair to say
5 that you want a clear process for reporting and
6 getting information about the construction process
7 when something is not happening the way that you
8 believe it should be or it's impacting the area in
9 an unusually harmful way?

10 SPEAKER: I think that [inaudible] the
11 construction process and post-construction.

12 SPEAKER: And post-construction.

13 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

14 SPEAKER: The process to report and
15 retrieve information for accountability purposes.

16 SPEAKER: Right. And I think also just
17 in this planning and design phase, you know, having
18 some protections in place, telling us what you are
19 going to do so that House Creek and Crabtree Creek
20 don't fill up with sediment, you know? Or you know
21 that it be really nice if you don't have to report
22 anything.

23 SPEAKER: Right.

24 SPEAKER: But the construction just
25 happens in an environmentally respectful way.

1 SPEAKER: If you were competent.

2 SPEAKER: Okay.

3 SPEAKER: So being confident that they're
4 putting things in place, so you don't have to have
5 those incidents? Are there any other valuable
6 community assets? Do you want to review what has
7 been said?

8 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

9 SPEAKER: I think the -- just the
10 Greenway itself too. So --

11 SPEAKER: Okay.

12 SPEAKER: Why don't you --

13 SPEAKER: So I have two public schools,
14 four pre-schools as a community asset. Greenway,
15 bike lanes, pedestrian flow, foot traffic is huge.
16 Churches. I listed House Creek and Crabtree Creek
17 features that are part of the Greenway. Commercial
18 construction versus water quality in the area.
19 Accountability of the construction process and
20 post-construction, will there be protection in
21 place? And also environmental integrity of the
22 area. Does that spur any other thoughts?

23 SPEAKER: Does everybody feel like your
24 concern has been captured? Okay.

25 So question four, from your perspective

1 be the intersection at Glen Eden and the Lake Boone
2 Trail. The lack of turn arrows in most directions
3 means that people turn on red.

4 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

5 SPEAKER: Or they turn before the light
6 is green or after the light is red -- I mean, if
7 there's -- it leads to unsafe --

8 SPEAKER: You said lack of?

9 SPEAKER: Lack of -- it's -- turn arrows.

10 SPEAKER: Directional arrows.

11 SPEAKER: Turn arrows?

12 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

13 SPEAKER: And those --

14 SPEAKER: So you're northbound on Ridge
15 Road trying to turn left on Glen Eden. There's no
16 left turn lane. If you're on Glen Eden going
17 eastbound, there is a turn arrow, so that is
18 helpful. So you know, that'll happen, but then
19 there's a really large back up on Ridge Road, folks
20 can't turn, so then they start, you know, going
21 around or cutting through the neighborhood to avoid
22 that intersection. There's just a lot of traffic
23 and already and -- and some --

24 SPEAKER: What is the name of -- do you
25 know the name of that neighborhood is that you're

1 referring to?

2 SPEAKER: Where -- where the cut through
3 is happening?

4 SPEAKER: Where you said they cut
5 through. Uh-huh.

6 SPEAKER: It happens on Tyson. It
7 happens on; I can look it up. It's West something.

8 SPEAKER: Westwood?

9 SPEAKER: On -- from the other side. On
10 the west side of Ridge Road.

11 SPEAKER: We'll let you look that up.

12 SPEAKER: I should know that.

13 SPEAKER: Is -- is there any other areas
14 where specifics, intersections, time of day or
15 directions?

16 SPEAKER: Westmoreland.

17 SPEAKER: I'd say the -- the intersection
18 at Ridge and Blue Ridge? No, Lake Boone. I'm
19 sorry.

20 SPEAKER: Okay.

21 SPEAKER: The intersection of Ridge Road
22 and Lake Boone. There's a tremendous amount of
23 kids during school hours, right at that
24 intersection.

25 SPEAKER: Yeah.

1 SPEAKER: Walking?

2 SPEAKER: Walking.

3 SPEAKER: Okay.

4 SPEAKER: And that's obviously morning
5 and -- morning and afternoon.

6 SPEAKER: I was just going to ask, both
7 times of day?

8 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

9 SPEAKER: Pickup and drop-off.

10 SPEAKER: There's a stretch of Ridge Road
11 where there are no sidewalks and there still a lot
12 of pedestrians.

13 SPEAKER: Do you know where that is?

14 SPEAKER: That's north of Lake Boone,
15 north of Airline Drive at the intersection with
16 Glen Eden. There are no sidewalks. There are two
17 crossing locations, but not full -- not -- you
18 don't get the walk on all four.

19 SPEAKER: [Inaudible]. Uh-huh.

20 SPEAKER: There also are no sidewalks on
21 the west side of Glen Eden and Ridge Road. And
22 this has always bothered me, particularly because
23 you have to go down Glen Eden to get to the
24 Greenway. So there's -- they've added bike lanes
25 on the east side of Glen Eden. There's also a

1 sidewalk there when you crossover Ridge Road on
2 Glen Eden, there's no sidewalk and no bike lane
3 until you get down the hill. And then there's a
4 bike lane on one side, but not on the other side.

5 And so there is, kind of, a blind hill
6 that pedestrians have to navigate, cyclists as
7 well. Lots of families with small people in tow.
8 I have a concern about increased traffic there as a
9 result of the project and just, you know, greater
10 risks for folks trying to use the Greenway system.

11 SPEAKER: And this is during and after
12 construction.

13 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

14 SPEAKER: Yeah. During and after.

15 SPEAKER: During and after depending
16 upon, you know, what the traffic flow looks like
17 after all of this mess is done.

18 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

19 SPEAKER: Uh-huh. There are also school
20 bus routes that use Glen Eden and Ridge Road and
21 have to stop where there are no sidewalks or bike
22 lanes for crossings. People drive 55 - 60 miles an
23 hour on Glen Eden, and so that's already an unsafe
24 road.

25 SPEAKER: For the buses, specifically

1 you're talking about.

2 SPEAKER: For -- for -- for pedestrians
3 or cyclists and -- and bus traffic.

4 SPEAKER: Anybody else? Did we capture
5 everything for that question that you wanted us to
6 hear? Sir, was there something?

7 SPEAKER: No, I -- I agree, totally agree
8 with, you know, that's more of a city problem than
9 a DOT problem. I -- I personally complained
10 several times to the city about there being no
11 sidewalk on Glen Eden. Somebody will get killed at
12 that corner before it's all over.

13 SPEAKER: This is a good opportunity
14 actually to address those things, because the
15 engineers will be hearing all the -- the additional
16 things that are impacting. I don't know what will
17 come of that, but this is a good opportunity to
18 voice that also.

19 SPEAKER: When you talk to the city about
20 that, they say that is a pre-lane road. We only
21 deal with two-lane roads as far as cyclists goes.
22 You been through that yet?

23 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

24 SPEAKER: I've been through it twice and

25 --

1 SPEAKER: And I entered it on
2 SeeClickFix, and it's in the like hundreds, so
3 they've also told me that it is on the list of
4 improvements. It's just not anywhere near the top,
5 but I guess it would be important to -- to clarify
6 that. My concern is that existing problems may be
7 exacerbated by changes in traffic that result from
8 this.

9 SPEAKER: That was what I was just going
10 to say.

11 SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

12 SPEAKER: That's what I was thinking
13 about.

14 SPEAKER: More cars, people driving
15 faster, you know, commuting cut-through. Not --

16 SPEAKER: The current issues that you
17 already have will increase?

18 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

19 SPEAKER: Yep? Yep. Okay.

20 SPEAKER: Okay. Fair enough.

21 SPEAKER: Should we take into
22 consideration like Wade where it comes into Ridge
23 'cause that's backs -- that's the turn I take to go
24 homecoming from like Arts Imperious. So like that
25 little turn backs up sometimes all way to the

1 interchange of 440, so that causes some problems.

2 SPEAKER: Okay. So that was on?

3 SPEAKER: Wade.

4 SPEAKER: Wade to Ridge?

5 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

6 SPEAKER: Wade to Ridge, yeah. Got to
7 get into the right lane to go around at a certain
8 time of day or you just --

9 SPEAKER: Get stuck?

10 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

11 SPEAKER: Or you're waiting to turn left
12 and you're not in the left lane.

13 SPEAKER: Yeah, yeah, exactly.

14 SPEAKER: It's a free-flowing lane, so
15 somebody's going to come up and -- rear-end you.

16 SPEAKER: Somebody's come and rear-end
17 you --

18 SPEAKER: Yeah.

19 SPEAKER: -- because it's like a hazard
20 for both people 'cause like --

21 SPEAKER: Yes.

22 SPEAKER: It says --

23 SPEAKER: -- and then other people I know
24 wait in line, and they try to cut out, but a lot of
25 times you like, can't see when the cars are coming

1 up because cars are coming, you know, still 60
2 miles an hour right passed where they're supposed
3 to be 45 so --

4 SPEAKER: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Any other
5 specifics that you want us to capture? Okay.
6 We'll go to question five.

7 What additional one or two things are
8 important things to your household business you
9 want considered as this project moves forward?
10 This is really what is not in the questions that
11 you want to voice.

12 SPEAKER: Get ready to write.

13 SPEAKER: Okay.

14 SPEAKER: There is another project that
15 the DOT is implementing that would widen I-440
16 further down from the -- the area there. And what
17 --

18 SPEAKER: Can you say where that is? Do
19 you --

20 SPEAKER: Yeah, it's down near Meredith
21 -- down near Meredith College. That area.

22 SPEAKER: Okay.

23 SPEAKER: That -- that part of 440 --

24 SPEAKER: From Wade to [inaudible] --

25 SPEAKER: -- is going to be widened, and

1 what people can do or what they will do is, as that
2 project is being done, they'll cut off the Beltline
3 and cut onto Ridge Road to bypass that stretch
4 that's being put under construction. So yeah, this
5 is one project, but other projects that are pending
6 could severely impact this area.

7 SPEAKER: Is it a pending project or is
8 it an approved project?

9 SPEAKER: Approved.

10 SPEAKER: It's approved.

11 SPEAKER: Okay.

12 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

13 SPEAKER: It's approved. Yeah.

14 SPEAKER: Okay.

15 SPEAKER: So that's an --

16 SPEAKER: [Inaudible] detour on this, I
17 guess.

18 SPEAKER: Yes.

19 SPEAKER: Yes, that's true.

20 SPEAKER: They'll use Ridge as a detour
21 all the way through and -- and it's -- it happens
22 today when there's a backup there. They -- they
23 come off of -- of the Beltline onto Ridge Road.

24 SPEAKER: One thing we've talked about at
25 other community meeting related to that 440

1 widening from Wade to -- to Route 1 is the impacts
2 to traffic on 440 that will happen, not just during
3 the construction, but after that is completed. And
4 having those data available to inform this project.
5 But this project is started, it's signed before
6 that project is finished and we understand how
7 traffic might change, you know, we're -- it seems
8 like we're -- we just don't have all the
9 information that we might, if we waited for that
10 project to finish.

11 SPEAKER: So timing of other projects?

12 SPEAKER: Uh-huh. Which we'll certainly
13 have in a fact on here.

14 SPEAKER: Like, if there was a traffic
15 forecast, for like that project. Like they're
16 thinking about this project when they make that
17 forecast.

18 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

19 SPEAKER: So make -- yeah.

20 SPEAKER: Any other additional things
21 that we have not asked about?

22 SPEAKER: One thing that I heard about is
23 a program that the City of Raleigh has called the
24 Safe Routes for Schools.

25 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

1 SPEAKER: And it's a traffic impacted
2 project that the schools request for their
3 surrounding access roads.

4 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

5 SPEAKER: Has DOT looked at that? Are
6 there changes that the city can make to help with
7 traffic around the schools in a community impact
8 project area that would make us, as neighbors and
9 residents, more comfortable with this bigger
10 project?

11 SPEAKER: Okay.

12 SPEAKER: I just haven't heard any
13 connection between the two. I don't understand how
14 [inaudible] --

15 SPEAKER: So are they talking to each
16 other is what you're asking?

17 SPEAKER: Right.

18 SPEAKER: Yes.

19 SPEAKER: Okay.

20 SPEAKER: That's kind of coming off the
21 projects talking to each other. Like if those
22 projects are --

23 SPEAKER: In separate bubbles?

24 SPEAKER: Yeah.

25 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

1 SPEAKER: Yeah.

2 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

3 SPEAKER: Okay. We -- because we have
4 time, I'm going to go to the next question and then
5 we're going to review and just make sure that if
6 there's anything else you -- that has come up, I
7 want to give you plenty of time -- I don't want to
8 keep you any longer than we need too. But I want
9 to give you plenty of time.

10 The last question is basically how can
11 the DOT demonstrate being a partner with the
12 community, the stakeholders while tackling the
13 complex transportation challenges created by rapid
14 urban growth in Wake County? So how do you
15 perceive the relationship with the DOT to the
16 community improving? What would -- what steps
17 would you suggest the DOT take, so there is a
18 greater partnership?

19 SPEAKER: Additional steps? I mean,
20 they're already taken quite a few -- this, you
21 know?

22 SPEAKER: Yep. What additional steps
23 like, you have suggestions?

24 SPEAKER: The shouldn't be compelled to
25 spend money just because they have money. It seems

1 like the DOTs gotten budget and they're actively
2 looking for ways to spend it before that money is
3 reallocated somewhere else.

4 SPEAKER: Okay.

5 SPEAKER: So it seems like they're --
6 they're finding things to do as opposed to reacting
7 to -- to real problems.

8 SPEAKER: Okay.

9 SPEAKER: Kind of in that same thing, one
10 of my neighbors is in engineering and he does
11 highly designing stuff. I don't know if his firm
12 is one of three.

13 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

14 SPEAKER: That's kind of a separate
15 thing. But it would be nice to know who they --
16 who the three are. He has said that they're --
17 that DOT is required to address this. That the
18 interchange distance there, when you're getting
19 onto 440 from Glenwood and getting off 440 on Ridge
20 Road, there's a name for that little come together
21 piece. It's too short that it's something they're
22 being forced to address in a very narrow timeframe,
23 but that is something that I had from my neighbor.
24 Not something I've read on the DOT website --

25 SPEAKER: Do you know why?

1 SPEAKER: Yeah. It'd be nice to have
2 some justification.

3 SPEAKER: Yeah. What's the -- what's the
4 forcing function? What the forcing function?

5 SPEAKER: Okay.

6 SPEAKER: And is that truth? Is that a
7 rumor? It sounds legit.

8 SPEAKER: You don't know though.

9 SPEAKER: Don't know. So I -- I just
10 think that there's a lot of information about the
11 need for this project that could be -- that could
12 be a little more transparent or more detailed
13 about. And I think the same is true of a lot of
14 this process.

15 SPEAKER: Okay.

16 SPEAKER: There's -- there's some folks
17 who have information and there's some other folks
18 who don't. So I think the -- maybe [inaudible] of
19 the information channels or trying different
20 formats or just doing a better job of reaching
21 everyone.

22 SPEAKER: Okay.

23 SPEAKER: Not relying on the CACs to do
24 that.

25 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

1 SPEAKER: Because that is not working.

2 SPEAKER: Okay. What is a CAC?

3 SPEAKER: That's the Committee --

4 SPEAKER: Committee Action --

5 SPEAKER: Action.

6 SPEAKER: Action Committee, I think. I
7 think that's it.

8 SPEAKER: Oh, so that's --

9 SPEAKER: Neighborhood --

10 SPEAKER: -- that's an external
11 organization that is trying to inform the citizens,
12 but it doesn't have all the information?

13 SPEAKER: And mostly those are linked to
14 City Council, so that's through the city.

15 SPEAKER: Okay.

16 SPEAKER: So there's a layer there that,
17 in some -- for some issues, works pretty well and
18 then, in this instance, I don't think that it is --
19 is working well.

20 SPEAKER: Is this particular form
21 helpful? What we're doing today?

22 SPEAKER: Yeah, it's [inaudible].

23 SPEAKER: Oh, absolutely. I'm sure
24 they're other -- other rooms with other and better
25 ideas, right? And you bring them all together

1 they'll have something to chew on for sure.

2 SPEAKER: Do you like this process?

3 SPEAKER: I wish we had more information.

4 SPEAKER: Okay. Before this process?

5 SPEAKER: It would be -- it would be --

6 SPEAKER: Yeah.

7 SPEAKER: -- better to have seen a plan

8 or a set of plans that we could react to.

9 SPEAKER: Okay.

10 SPEAKER: As opposed, you know,

11 everybody's trying to get their issue in when in

12 fact over time it might not be an issue.

13 SPEAKER: Overwhelmed?

14 SPEAKER: Yeah.

15 SPEAKER: Okay.

16 SPEAKER: Yeah.

17 SPEAKER: So you --

18 SPEAKER: So we need to have -- we need

19 to repeat this exercise once we have those up to

20 nine designs.

21 SPEAKER: Yes. Exactly. So everybody's

22 clear, that you will get to review the plans? And

23 all the plans are submitted by the engineers, you

24 will get access to and then we'll be getting your

25 feedback --

1 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

2 SPEAKER: I don't know if it's going to
3 exactly look like this, but there'll be another
4 opportunity to give feedback to those plans and the
5 unknowns always are the things that are challenging
6 for everybody because they are. Because they're
7 unknown.

8 SPEAKER: And I think some form of, you
9 know, like accountability for -- that this forum
10 actually did something, you know? It's one thing
11 to air grievances, or thoughts or anything, but,
12 you know, down the road --

13 SPEAKER: Do they actually hear us?

14 SPEAKER: Yeah. You know, we talk about
15 this, but was anything done in response, you know?
16 Like pointing to say oh, a lot of people said this
17 and this that, so we changed as a result instead of
18 just like well we had a hearing --

19 SPEAKER: To check the box?

20 SPEAKER: Yeah. And then like, you know,
21 no one knows what the hearing did to the project.

22 SPEAKER: So one of the things that we're
23 supposed --

24 SPEAKER: {Inaudible}.

25 SPEAKER: -- to assure you of, as

1 facilitators, is exactly this is all captured.
2 It's -- it's not being all captured and just sent
3 to the DOT. What's happening it's being captured,
4 and Partners for Impact are then doing a report
5 including all of these recordings, all of that, and
6 they're going to report on themes.

7 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

8 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

9 SPEAKER: All the themes that have been
10 captured in every room and so that will all be done
11 in a report that's transparent that you can see
12 before the plans. I think they said November 1st?

13 SPEAKER: They'll have it live, yeah, the
14 first of November.

15 SPEAKER: The 1st of November.

16 SPEAKER: The report will be posted on
17 the website that where --

18 SPEAKER: Yes.

19 SPEAKER: Okay.

20 SPEAKER: Yeah.

21 SPEAKER: November 1st and -- so you'll
22 get to see and hear to the depth you're interested
23 in what this actually captured. Not only this
24 session, all the sessions that have taken place and
25 will take place. So the last one is Saturday.

1 Does that kind of help with what you were just
2 saying?

3 SPEAKER: Yeah. I mean, I just wanted to
4 make sure that going -- that we could look at
5 something ourselves like the report like you
6 mentioned.

7 SPEAKER: Yeah.

8 SPEAKER: And the recordings if you
9 wanted to.

10 SPEAKER: That would be a tedious
11 process.

12 SPEAKER: Want other general comments, at
13 this point?

14 SPEAKER: Sure.

15 SPEAKER: Okay. So if we -- we all know
16 that we're going to go through two or three years
17 of hell here, as they do this project at the --
18 Ridge Road will just be chock-full, you know, we'll
19 somehow survive that, I guess. I'm not sure
20 everybody will, but I'd liked to know from a
21 long-term perspective, is what are the goals of DOT
22 and the city to decrease the traffic on Ridge Road
23 by -- by this freeing the bottleneck?

24 SPEAKER: Okay.

25 SPEAKER: I feel like that's a hard one.

1 I feel like traffic is just in general is going to
2 increase in Raleigh. I --

3 SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

4 SPEAKER: I mean -- I seen -- and you're
5 -- you're probably right, but -- but one of the,
6 you know, is that one of the goals, you know?

7 SPEAKER: What are the goals?

8 SPEAKER: I mean, if you're going to --
9 if you're going to enlarge 440 from four lanes to
10 six or eight lanes, you would think gee that would
11 be a good thing. And traffic on these other roads
12 would decrease. My other comment is, you know, as
13 -- as a community here our one nuclear option might
14 be, which you alluded to a while ago, is to go
15 through the safety -- what -- what you do call it?
16 What -- what was it --

17 SPEAKER: At the assessment?

18 SPEAKER: -- the schools to the cities
19 and put speed humps and a lower speed limit on
20 Ridge Road and is the -- is that something that the
21 DOT is going to consider if we squeeze off the flow
22 of traffic on Ridge Road for that -- for that means
23 is that -- that will sure do it.

24 SPEAKER: Yeah.

25 SPEAKER: Can you drive six -- 45 miles

1 an hour over a speed humps to --

2 SPEAKER: Yeah. My -- my -- now, that
3 I'm thinking about this whole process, these
4 questions don't seem specific enough to provide the
5 DOT with guidance on what to do and what not to do,
6 right? So it doesn't seem as if I can say my
7 recommendation is XY and Z. Or I don't want this
8 road connected to that road.

9 SPEAKER: Okay.

10 SPEAKER: It's not specific enough and
11 there some things that -- that I think should be
12 done and should not be done to help with -- with
13 traffic on Ridge Road.

14 SPEAKER: If you know those things you
15 can either write them on this or you can write them
16 on a piece of paper and we can submit that.

17 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

18 SPEAKER: So that is an option for you.
19 So I don't know if you came prepared to do that.

20 SPEAKER: Well, yeah. There's just -- I
21 -- it's just a couple of very quick things.

22 SPEAKER: So I think if -- if you would
23 like to write those things down, we're going to
24 give you the -- we have time. So --

25 SPEAKER: Okay.

1 SPEAKER: -- we'll let you do that.

2 SPEAKER: And I don't know if anybody
3 wants to hear what -- what I think?

4 SPEAKER: Yeah, absolutely.

5 SPEAKER: Go ahead.

6 SPEAKER: I mean -- I -- I kind of like
7 part of question three unless I feel like --

8 SPEAKER: Yeah, it's part of it, but it
9 doesn't say, you know, what -- what would like to
10 see, what would you not like to see when it comes
11 to roads, right? It seems to me that -- that --
12 that the project on widening I-440, right? If you
13 want to decrease traffic on Ridge Road, is you take
14 the flyover, over Ridge Road away during that
15 project. You can't get off the Beltline to get
16 onto Ridge Road while that project is underway.
17 That's one of them.

18 SPEAKER: That's an exit.

19 SPEAKER: But that would, like you said,
20 increase some emergency response times. There's
21 pros and cons, right?

22 SPEAKER: Uh-huh. Maybe emergency
23 vehicles could use the access if it's closed?

24 SPEAKER: Could use it or [inaudible].

25 SPEAKER: But --

1 SPEAKER: Where are the fire stations up
2 for Ridge? It's -- I'm trying to think.

3 SPEAKER: There's one on Lake Boone up,
4 almost to Blueberry, by Rex Hospital.

5 SPEAKER: Yeah, that's right. Uh-huh.

6 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

7 SPEAKER: Yeah.

8 SPEAKER: That's one -- one thing. The
9 second thing is that throughout all this design
10 they should connect Ridge Road and Crabtree Valley.

11 SPEAKER: They should or should not?

12 SPEAKER: Should not connect Ridge Road
13 and Crabtree Valley Roads. Like, that would just
14 -- that would make Ridge Road a highway into the
15 mall.

16 SPEAKER: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

17 SPEAKER: Which we certainly don't want.
18 That's another traffic increase. And the third
19 point is if there's problems on Glenwood Avenue
20 this whole thing is that there's traffic on
21 Glenwood, and we need to fix traffic on Glenwood.
22 Fix it on Glenwood. Don't fix it in -- at the
23 expense of the surrounding neighborhoods. There's
24 some things that can be done like, making express
25 lanes on Glenwood Avenue, so that people who want

1 to go through the intersections quickly can go
2 through. Then you have access lanes on -- on
3 Glenwood Avenue. They'll alleviate some of the --
4 some of the traffic, some of the -- so these
5 questions don't get you to those points --

6 SPEAKER: Okay.

7 SPEAKER: -- where you can tell DOT that
8 this is what we want, what we don't want. It, you
9 know, it gives them a general idea.

10 SPEAKER: So hopes --

11 SPEAKER: But it gives them -- it gives
12 them an out to say well, you know, it wasn't raised
13 -- wasn't raised in the -- in the sessions, you
14 know, we did this. Yeah, we understand safety, but
15 --

16 SPEAKER: So I'm glad you said what you
17 said because now it's recorded.

18 SPEAKER: Right. That's all I want. I
19 just wanted recorded.

20 SPEAKER: That's good.

21 SPEAKER: I don't need to write -- I
22 don't need to write it down.

23 SPEAKER: That's excellent. Yeah.

24 SPEAKER: So I have another comment about
25 DOT being a good partner with the community. So I

1 heard it mentioned that DOT is really only
2 concerned with Glenwood Avenue as it is, Route 70
3 and 440 because those are the only two state roads
4 in this equation.

5 So impacts to Ridge Road or Glen Eden or
6 Lake Boone are just not their concern because
7 they're not state roads. So what they could do to
8 kind of help us understand this situation better is
9 really, maybe being more -- share more, be more
10 forthcoming about relationships with the city
11 through this project. Just assure us that those
12 connections are being made.

13 I've also heard in the neighborhood
14 meetings that part of another DOT project is
15 widening Glenwood from Ridge Road all the way down
16 to Oberlin Road, going to six lanes there.

17 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

18 SPEAKER: That I've -- I have only heard
19 that connected to this in these neighborhood
20 meetings. Never anything official through the
21 CACs, through the city or through DOT.

22 SPEAKER: So you don't know if that's
23 true or not?

24 SPEAKER: So is that true? And how does
25 that change the other options for the -- the

1 project designs? How does -- is that a technical
2 constraint or limitation that Beth mentioned
3 earlier? It would just mean a little bit more
4 information about that.

5 SPEAKER: Okay. That's good.

6 SPEAKER: One the vision for the valley
7 plans that she alluded to which was looking at
8 Crabtree Valley in the future and that was done in
9 the, I think, in 2010 and 11, shows Ridge Road
10 coming around instead of connecting to the Beltline
11 connecting to Glenwood Avenue where it is six
12 lanes. So that -- that would -- that would really
13 change more, I think, of the neighborhood than what
14 some folks have talked about Ridge Road, you know,
15 that the exit changing and connecting to Crabtree
16 Valley Avenue so --

17 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

18 SPEAKER: It kind of sounds just like
19 from some of the things that you've shared that you
20 don't -- you're not certain that the information
21 you have is accurate?

22 SPEAKER: Yeah.

23 SPEAKER: Yeah.

24 SPEAKER: So there's an uncertainty about
25 the information in general?

1 SPEAKER: Well, I think that's one of the
2 reasons again, we don't have any sort of plans or
3 any sort of concrete anything to react to.

4 SPEAKER: Okay.

5 SPEAKER: It's all more emotional and --
6 and --

7 SPEAKER: Vague.

8 SPEAKER: -- you know, you'd always look
9 at the worst possible scenario when you don't have
10 the information, right? You always assume that
11 it's going to be the worst.

12 SPEAKER: Yes.

13 SPEAKER: So I think what would be
14 infinitely more valuable is this session once plans
15 are in place.

16 SPEAKER: Okay.

17 SPEAKER: So that people can react to
18 something concrete rather than the great unknown.

19 SPEAKER: Yeah. Good.

20 SPEAKER: Do you guys have anything you
21 want to share that's unrelated to the questions
22 that's just was on your mind, or you wanted to make
23 sure was addressed?

24 SPEAKER: I guess just information and
25 again, it relates stuff you don't know. 'Cause you

1 mentioned earlier like they're forced to do it
2 because, like the lane -- the section of the
3 interchange is too short, why is too short, you
4 know? Like, how this did get through? Was it --
5 was it up to criteria when they built it, for
6 instance, and then too much traffic has changed
7 everything? Or did it -- did someone pass the buck
8 alone and it never got caught and -- so it was just
9 like not even good from the beginning and now
10 they're rectifying their mistake? And just like,
11 you know, who built it and if it was too short, how
12 do we know this one will have the exact same issue
13 going forward in a couple of years too, for
14 instance? I don't know.

15 SPEAKER: And even is that the issue?

16 SPEAKER: Yeah, that's true.

17 SPEAKER: How -- how long -- how long do
18 you lived here?

19 SPEAKER: Oh, I'm a recent transplant.
20 That's -- yeah.

21 SPEAKER: This whole thing about that
22 intersection has been going on what? 20, 30 years
23 now.

24 SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

25 SPEAKER: Like, different proposals,

1 flyovers here and there, and you know, this just --
2 this is just the finest version of this whole
3 thing.

4 SPEAKER: I look forward to them in the
5 future.

6 SPEAKER: Someday you'll be able to say,
7 this has been going on for 30 years.

8 SPEAKER: Yeah. This has been going on
9 for 20 years.

10 SPEAKER: All right. Just as points of
11 follow up, they are going to be submitting all of
12 this information. We've already reiterated that
13 they're going to be collecting the data. They will
14 be recording it and they will let you know when the
15 information is available. We told you that would
16 be early in November. Unless you all have
17 something else, you want us to record on the sheets
18 or just voice something on the recorder -- where
19 our session is done. It's complete.

20 SPEAKER: Have -- have they taken into
21 consideration that Crabtree Valley Mall very well
22 might become another ghost mall? A lot of that
23 traffic they're talking about diverting and, you
24 know, like Sears is gone. Macy's is in trouble. I
25 -- I guess Best Buy is doing good for now, but

1 malls are doomed.

2 SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

3 SPEAKER: Maybe we won't need a lot of
4 this.

5 SPEAKER: Good point.

6 SPEAKER: Yeah.

7 SPEAKER: Is that complete the session?

8 SPEAKER: I think so.

9 SPEAKER: I'm good.

10 SPEAKER: I'm good.

11 SPEAKER: All right. Thank you so much
12 for taking the time first to show up 'cause we
13 wouldn't have these thoughts if you didn't show up,
14 so we're very grateful to that. And the DOT and
15 some of the engineers, I don't know the engineering
16 companies, but some of them are actually here, so
17 if you want to talk to them specifically your
18 welcome to do so. I think Beth did let you know
19 that none of that will be recorded. So just know
20 if you have the conversation it is just a private
21 conversation. Okay?

22 SPEAKER: Okay.

23 SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

24 SPEAKER: Thank you ladies. Thank you
25 for being prepared.

1 SPEAKER: We appreciate it.

2 SPEAKER: Absolutely.

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